

Media Release



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Australian Calisthenics Competition Cancelled for 2020!

Royal South Street Society (RSSS) located in the heart of Ballarat, has been providing one of the largest and longest running eisteddfods in Australia, since 1891. Australia's own unique sport of calisthenics had its inaugural RSSS competition in 1903, and has run annually since then, excluding 3 years during WW2.

RSSS has just announced that this year's Australian Calisthenics Competition, Peace & Quite Graceful Girl and Ballarat Calisthenics Solos have been cancelled. The competitions were scheduled to run from 5th October to 31st October, as the finale to Royal South Street Society's Grand National Eisteddfod of Australasia.

Chairperson of RSSS, Peter Zala commented 'we felt it was of the outmost importance that we place the health and safety of our competitors, coaches, volunteers, staff and our local Ballarat community, as our first priority. This regrettably, has meant over 1,600 competitors from 70 calisthenics clubs including seven interstate clubs had to be notified of our recent decision to cancel live performances for 2020. We have been working closely with all our disciplines to review other possible avenues of competition for 2020, and this may mean further cancellations may be inevitable'.

RSSS Competition and Volunteer Officer, Julie Wiseman stated, 'we have had overwhelming support from our wonderful calisthenics community, with our recent decision to cancel the 2020 competition. Our competition is seen as the pinnacle of the calisthenics calendar, and while many entrants were disappointed in the cancellation, they felt that considering the recent COVID 19 outbreak especially in Melbourne, it was the right decision, made with the best interests of our competitors and calisthenics clubs in mind'.

RSSS has announced Vocal and Freemasons Festival of Bands & Strings competitions will be held by video submission this year, and some other disciplines across the eisteddfod would also consider online entries. Unfortunately, this is not an option for some disciplines, including calisthenics, as large groups are unable to come together safely to train, with current Stage 3 restrictions in Melbourne and Mitchell Shire.

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